



Jeff Sessions
UNITED STATES SENATOR • ALABAMA

FAX

TO:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

OFFICE:

Customs

FAX NO:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

FROM:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

PHONE:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

DATE:

6-7-10

PAGES (including this cover sheet):

8

NOTE:

☐ D.C. OFFICE

335 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0104
Phone: (202) 224-4124
Fax: (202) 224-3149

☐ BIRMINGHAM

341 Vance Federal Building
1800 Fifth Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203-2171
Phone: (205) 731-1500
Fax: (205) 731-0221

☐ HUNTSVILLE OFFICE

Regions Center, Suite 802
200 Clinton Avenue, N.W.
Huntsville, AL 35801-4932
Phone: (256) 533-0979
Fax: (256) 533-0745

☒ MOBILE OFFICE

Colonial Bank Centre, Suite 2300-A
41 West I-65 Service Road North
Mobile, AL 36608-1201
Phone: (251) 414-3083
Fax: (251) 414-5845

☐ MONTGOMERY OFFICE

7550 Halcyon Summit Drive
Suite 150
Montgomery, AL 36117
Phone: (334) 244-7017
Fax: (334) 244-7091

JEFF SESSIONS
ALABAMACOMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
Hiking Member
ARMED SERVICES
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
BUDGET

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0104

June 7, 2010

Mr. L. Seth Statler
Assistant Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Office of Congressional Affairs
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Mr. Statler:

I am enclosing correspondence I received from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) regarding his concerns about the way Customs is categorizing his merchandise. Any information you may have regarding this matter would be appreciated so that I may respond to my constituent's inquiry.

Thank you for your assistance. Please respond to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) in my Mobile Office at the following address:

Office of Senator Jeff Sessions
41 West I-65 Service Road North, Suite 2300-A
Mobile, Alabama 36608-1291
251-414-3083

Very truly yours,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Jeff Sessions
United States Senator

JS: st

BIRMINGHAM
341 VANCE FEDERAL BUILDING
1800 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203-2171
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(251) 414-3083

MONTGOMERY
7550 HALCYON SUMMIT DRIVE
SUITE 150
MONTGOMERY, AL 36117
(334) 244-7017

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



June 3, 2010 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Jeff Sessions
United States Senator for Alabama
41 West I-65 Service Road
Suite 2300-A
Mobile, Alabama 36608-1291

Dear Senator,

I would like to bring to your attention a matter that is of great concern to all of us that love the 300 year tradition of Carnival/Mardi Gras here in our Great Nation.

Over the past 6 months, we have had numerous inquiries from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's United States Customs and Border Protection office here in Mobile, Alabama. Our company is being told by our local agents, Ms. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and Christina Allen, that our Government does not recognize Mardi Gras as a nationally recognized event, but only a local event in our area, that many of our items we import are not festive in nature. And that Mardi Gras and Carnival are not the same.

This is a new way that they are looking at our product's classification and I am not sure why all of the sudden this is occurring. During my initial meeting with the office here in Mobile it was told to me by one of the agents attending the meeting that I should get a better "lobbyist in Washington" (much to my amazement.) So now we turn to you for assistance.

Our normal procedure for many of the items we import have fallen under the heading of 9505 in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule...heading 9505 as festive, carnival or other entertainment articles.....Now the local office is telling us that the Carnival/Mardi Gras costumes, hats, decorations, and other related items we are currently importing into the Port of Mobile for Mardi Gras do not fall under this category but rather some sort of "everyday use item" subject to different tariffs. The "Festive Article" tariff is used for other celebrations like Halloween, Christmas, St. Patrick's Day but for some reason not Carnival/Mardi Gras items per our agents here in Mobile, Alabama.

As I believe you are aware, Mardi Gras celebrations are held in Washington, D.C.; San Diego, Ca., St. Louis, MO., Galveston, TX., Miami, Fl, and all great States in-between. We have sent our carnival items to all 50 States in the U.S. for this celebration.

Without your help, I am afraid that the people of our Country will have to pay more for their Carnival celebrations due to what I believe are unfair and discriminatory classifications of our carnival products. Please let us know if you can assist us in the matter.

Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Enclosures: Customs Rulings and articles.

www.(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Privacy Act Release

Date

6/3/10

Social Security No. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Claim No.

SRC/A No.

Dear Senator Sessions:

I request your assistance in resolving the problem I am having with (agency)

U.S. Customs - Mobile, AL. office

Give highlights, necessary dates and locations. Use second sheet if needed.

see attached letter dated 6/3/10.

In keeping with the restrictions of the privacy act, you are authorized to request any information required to assist me.

Name: (printed)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Address:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Initial

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

City

State

Zip

Home Phone:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Work:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Signature:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

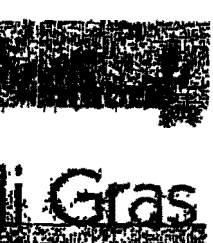
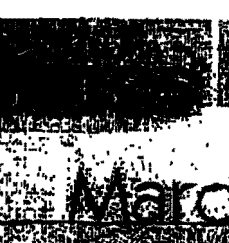
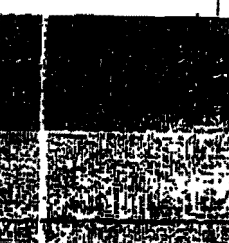
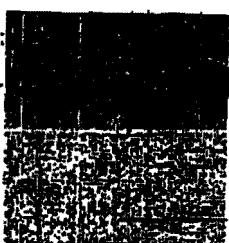
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

NOTICE OF ACTION

18 CFR 152.2

This is NOT a Notice of Liquidation			1. DATE OF THIS NOTICE 05/13/2010	
2. CARRIER MSCU MSC JUDITH		3. DATE OF IMPORTATION 01/12/2010		4. DATE OF ENTRY 01/18/2010
5. IMPORTER/SHIPPER CNFORAPPQUA		7. COUNTRY China		8. ENTRY NO. (b) (7)(E)
9. DESCRIPTION OF MERCHANDISE Costumes		6. CBP BROKER AND FILE NO. ASF, Inc 201804		
10. TO Toomey's Mardi Gras Candy Co. Inc. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) USA		11. FROM U.S. Customs and Border Protection 150 North Royal Street Ste 3004 Mobile, AL 36602 Fax (251) 441-6490		
12. THE FOLLOWING ACTION WHICH WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN DUTIES.-				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IS PROPOSED. <input type="checkbox"/> HAS BEEN TAKEN.		IF YOU DISAGREE WITH THIS PROPOSED ACTION, PLEASE FURNISH YOUR REASONS IN WRITING TO THIS OFFICE WITHIN 20 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE. AFTER 20 DAYS THE ENTRY WILL BE LIQUIDATED AS PROPOSED. THE ENTRY IS IN THE LIQUIDATION PROCESS AND IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN THIS OFFICE.		
TYPE OF ACTION A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. <input type="checkbox"/> C. <input type="checkbox"/> D. <input type="checkbox"/>		RATE ADVANCE VALUE ADVANCE EXCESS <input type="checkbox"/> WEIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> QUANTITY OTHER (See below)		
13. EXPLANATION (Refer to Action letter designations above)				
<p>Entry summary (b) (7)(E) has been under review in this office. The merchandise on this entry was entered under (b) (7)(E) as dresses of other textile materials knit not silk. However, the items entered were 100 % woven polyester which precludes classification in Chapter 61. Further, only two of the items were dresses. Two of the items appear to sets of tops and pants and the other is invoiced as a top. Therefore, the following classification changes are proposed:</p> <p>(b) (7)(E) Diamond mardi gras and (b) (7)(E) ladies FDL Mardi Gras: (b) (7)(E) with a duty rate of 16%.</p> <p>(b) (7)(E) Black Mardi Gras Sequins and (b) (7)(E) Captain Mardi Gras: tops under (b) (7)(E) with a duty rate of (b) (7)(E) and pants under (b) (7)(E) with a duty rate of (b) (7)(E)</p> <p>(b) (7)(E) FDL Mardi Gras Top: (b) (7)(E) with a duty rate of (b) (7)(E)</p> <p>Please be sure to use the new tariff number for all future shipments of this merchandise.</p> <p>If you choose to disagree with the proposed changes please provide a written response and samples. Correspondence may be mailed to my attention at the address listed above.</p>				
14. CBP OFFICER (Print or Type) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Import Specialist		15. TEAM DESIGNATION (b) (7)(E)		16. TELEPHONE (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CBP FORM 29 (03/95)



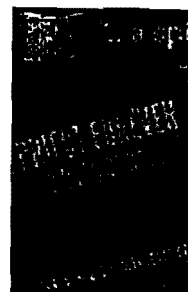
Wednesday
April 14, 2010

Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, is the last hurrah before the Catholic season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. It also has links to the Christmas season through the period known as Carnival.

Catholic Roots of Mardi Gras

-Saint of the Day
-Minute Meditations
-Catholic News
-Daily Catholic Question

[Send a Mardi Gras e-Greeting!](#)



Mardi Gras, literally "Fat Tuesday," has grown in popularity in recent years as a raucous, sometimes hedonistic event. But its roots lie in the Christian calendar, as the "last hurrah" before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. That's why the enormous party in New Orleans, for example, ends abruptly at midnight on Tuesday, with battalions of streetsweepers pushing the crowds out of the French Quarter towards home.

What is less known about Mardi Gras is its relation to the Christmas season, through the ordinary-time interlude known in many Catholic cultures as Carnival. (Ordinary time, in the Christian calendar, refers to the normal "ordering" of time outside of the Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter seasons. There is a fine [Scripture From Scratch](#) article on that topic if you want to learn more.)

Carnival comes from the Latin words *carne vale*, meaning "farewell to the flesh." Like many Catholic holidays and seasonal celebrations, it likely has its roots in pre-Christian traditions based on the seasons. Some believe the festival represented the few days added to the lunar calendar to make it coincide with the solar calendar; since these days were outside the calendar, rules and customs were not obeyed. Others see it as a late-winter celebration designed to welcome the coming spring. As early as the middle of the second century, the Romans observed a Fast of 40 Days, which was preceded by a brief season of feasting, costumes and merrymaking.

SPONSORED LINKS

mardi gras meaning - Bing

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Meaning****Religious
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Gras****The Meaning of
Fat Tuesday****Christmas
Meaning****Halloween
Meaning****Ash Wednesday
Meaning****SEARCH
HISTORY****mardi gras
meaning****See all****Definitions of
Mardi Gras (n)**Mar-di Gras [maa
rdee gra'a]

1. **Tuesday before
Lent:** in some
countries, Shrove
Tuesday, the last
day before the
beginning of Lent
in the Christian
calendar
2. **carnival before
Lent:** in some
places, a carnival
held or ending on
Mardi Gras, often
celebrated with
costumes,
parades, balls, and
other festivities

Synonyms: festival,
celebration, street
party, fair, fete, parade,
pageant, cavalcade,
Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The terms **"Mardi Gras"** (pronounced /ˈmɑːr di ɡrɑː/), **"Mardi Gras season"**, and **"Carnival season"**,^{[1][2][3][4][5][6]} in English, refer to events of the Carnival celebrations, beginning on or after Epiphany and ending on the day before Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday" (in ethnic English tradition, Shrove Tuesday), referring to the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which started on Ash Wednesday. Related popular practices were associated with celebrations before the fasting and religious obligations associated with the penitential season of Lent. Popular practices included wearing masks and costumes, overturning social conventions, dancing, sports competitions, parades, etc. Similar expressions to Mardi Gras appear in other European languages sharing the Christian tradition. In English, the day is called Shrove Tuesday, associated with the religious requirement for confession before Lent begins.

In many areas, the term **"Mardi Gras"** has come to mean the whole period of activity related to the celebratory events, beyond just the single day. In some US cities, it is now called **"Mardi Gras Day"** or **"Fat Tuesday"**.^{[1][2][3][4][5][6]} The festival season varies from city to city, as some traditions consider Mardi Gras the entire period between Epiphany or Twelfth Night and Ash Wednesday.^[7] Others treat the final three-day period before Ash Wednesday as the Mardi Gras.^[8] In Mobile, Alabama, Mardi Gras-associated social events begin in November, followed by mystic society balls on Thanksgiving,^{[7][9]} then New Year's Eve, followed by parades and balls in January and February, celebrating up to midnight before Ash Wednesday. In earlier times parades were held on New Year's Day.^[7] Other cities famous for Mardi Gras celebrations include Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, Quebec City, Quebec in Canada; Mazatlan in Mexico; and New Orleans, Louisiana in the United States. Many other places have important Mardi Gras celebrations as well.

Carnival is an important celebration in Catholic European nations. In the United Kingdom and Ireland, the week before Ash Wednesday is called "shrovetide", ending on Shrove Tuesday. It has its popular celebratory aspects as well. Pancakes are a traditional food. Pancakes and related fried breads or pastries made with sugar, fat and eggs are also traditionally consumed at this time in many parts of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mardi Gras (Also known as Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday)



Costumed musicians, New Orleans

Type	Local, cultural, Catholic
Significance	Celebration prior to fasting season of Lent.
Celebrations	Parades, parties
Related to	Carnival

Contents

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